## Message Text

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**ACTION IO-14** 

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OIC-04 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10

RSC-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 L-03 H-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-15 RSR-01 /161 W

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CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 4262

EO 11652: GDS TAGS: PBOR, UN

SUBJECT: CONTACT GROUP CONSULTATIONS: AUGUST 7

- 1. CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. DELEGATION (STEVENSON) MET ON AUGUST 7 WITH CHAIRMAN AMERASINGHE, CHAIRMAN OF THE CONTACT GROUPS TO DISCUSS AMERASINGHE'S PROPOSAL FOR HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN CONTACT GROUPS REPRESENTING THE VARIOUS REGIONAL GROUPS PLUS THE U.S. AS AN INDEPENDENT.
- 2. AMERASINGHE INDICATED WORK OF SUBCOMMITTEES I AND III IS PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY AND SHOULD COMPLETE SATISFACTORY TEXTS FOR CONFERENCE; BUT WORK OF SUBCOMMITTEE II INVOLVING, AS HE SAW IT, MOST IMPORTANT AND GREATER PART OF THE CONFERENCE ARTICLES, HAD BOGGED DOWN AND THAT, IN AGREEMENT WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF SUBCOMMITTEE II AND CHAIRMAN OF SUBCOMMITTEE II WORKING GROUP, HE WISHED TO INSTITUTE HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIONS TO ACHIEVE SOME POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING AS TO MOST CRITICAL ISSUES AND HOPED THIS WOULD EXPEDITE THE TECHNICAL WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND ENABLE IT TO CONCENTRATE ON MOST IMPORTANT OUTSTANDING ISSUES.
- 3. THE AFRICAN, ASIAN, LATIN AMERICAN AND EAST EUROPEAN GROUPS INDICATED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR HIS PROPOSAL. WEST EUROPEANS INDICATED THEY THOUGHT CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE BASICALLY LIMITED TO PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS AND IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT CONFIDENTIAL

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TO LIMIT CONTACT GROUP TO

## SIX MEMBERS.

- 4. U.S. TOOK POSITION THAT MEETINGS COULD BE USEFUL IF THEY FACILITATED PREPARATION OF ALTERNATE TEXTS ON PRINCIPAL OUTSTANDING ISSUES BUT THAT ANY CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBLE GENERAL LINES OF AN OVERALL AGREEMENT SHOULD BE EXPLORATORY WITHOUT COMMITMENT.
- AMERASINGHE AGREED THERE WOULD BE NO ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE ANY UNDERSTANDING ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES BUT MEETINGS COULD PROVIDE BASIS OF UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT POSSIBLE LINES OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT MIGHT BE.
- 5. ASIAN AND WEST EUROPEAN GROUPS INDICATED DIFFICULTY IN LIMITING THE CONTACT GROUPS TO SIX BECAUSE OF MANY DIVERSE INTERESTS AND IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT LAND-LOCKED AND SHELF-LOCKED GROUPS BE REPRESENTED SEPARATELY. CHAIRMEN OF RESPECTIVE GROUPS WILL CONSULT WITH THEIR GROUPS, WITH VIEW TO INSTITUTING CONSULTATIONS, ON FRIDAY.
- 6. AT LUNCHEON MEETING OF GROUP OF FIVE WITH THE U.S.,
  USSR, FRANCE, JAPAN AND U.K., U.K. AND FRENCH HEADS OF DELEGATION
  INDICATED THEY WERE VERY CONCERNED IF CONSULTATIONS WENT BEYOND
  PROCEDURE BECAUSE THEY DID NOT FEEL TIME WAS RIGHT FOR POLITICAL
  CONSULTATIONS. SOVIET AND U.S. POINTED OUT THAT CONSULTATIONS
  COULD PROVIDE MEANS FOR CONSULTATION WITH ASIAN, LATIN AMERICAN
  AND AFRICAN REGIONAL GROUPS WHICH HAVE BEEN TENDING TO MEET
  SEPARATELY AND PERHAPS PREVENTING THEIR COALESCENCE AROUND
  FIXED POSITION NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT INTERESTS OF OTHER GROUPS.
  THEY ALSO STRESSED POSSIBILITY OF THESE CONSULTATIONS LEADING
  TO STRONGER DIRECTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE II WORK BY THE RESPECTIVE
  CHAIRMAN IN INTERESTS OF PRODUCING ALTERNATE
  TEXTS ON MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLES.
- 7. U.K. AND FRANCE WERE CONCERNED AS TO HOW DIVERSE WESTERN EUROPEAN INTERESTS COULD BE REPRESENTED BY CONTACT GROUP OF SIX AND WERE SOMEWHAT RELIEVED BY THE PROPOSAL TO HAVE THE LANDLOCKED AND SHELF-LOCKED COUNTRIES REPRESENTED SEPARATELY IN CONSULTATIONS.BASSIN

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